

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 (currently amended): A multifocal ophthalmic lens having a distance optical center, comprising:

a first portion having first focal properties, said first focal properties being substantially constant throughout said first portion; and  
a second portion having second focal properties extending downwardly from a location adjacent the distance optical center and having a focal length that varies progressively downwardly in said second portion; and  
two regions on either side of said second portion, each of said regions having substantially constant focal properties.

wherein said lens has a front surface that transitions smoothly between said first portion, said second portion and said two regions.

2 (previously presented): A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claim 1, wherein the focal properties of the two regions are substantially the same as the focal properties of the first portion.

3 (previously presented): A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claim 1, wherein the focal properties of at least one of the two regions is different from the first portion.

4 (currently amended): A multifocal ophthalmic lens having a distance optical center, comprising:

a first portion having first focal properties, said first focal properties being substantially constant throughout said first portion; and

a second portion having second focal properties extending downwardly from a location adjacent the distance optical center and having a focal length that varies progressively downwardly in said second portion; and two regions on either side of said second portion, each of said regions having substantially constant focal properties. A multifocal ophthalmic lens as in claimed in claim 3, wherein the focal properties of the two regions are different from one another.

5 (original): A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one of the regions has the same focal properties as the first portion.

6 (original): A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the regions has an infinite focal length.

7 (original): A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second portions are integral with one another.

8 (original): A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second portions are separate and are bonded together.

9 (original): A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claims 7 or 8, wherein said two regions are integral with at least the first portion.

10 (currently amended): A multifocal ophthalmic lens having a distance optical center, comprising:

a first portion having first focal properties, said first focal properties being substantially constant throughout said first portion; and  
a second portion having second focal properties extending downwardly from a location adjacent the distance optical center and having a focal length that varies progressively downwardly in said second portion; and  
two regions on either side of said second portion, each of said regions having substantially constant focal properties. A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claims

~~7 or 8~~, wherein the two regions comprise lens pieces separately formed from the first and second portions and are secured thereto.

11 (currently amended): A multifocal ophthalmic lens having a distance optical center, comprising:

a first portion having first focal properties, said first focal properties being substantially constant throughout said first portion; and  
a second portion having second focal properties extending downwardly from a location adjacent the distance optical center and having a focal length that varies progressively downwardly in said second portion; and  
two regions on either side of said second portion, each of said regions having substantially constant focal properties ~~A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the lens has an optical distance centre and is originally substantially circular, wherein the second portion has side edges located on radii extending from the centre of the lens, and wherein said two regions have substantially straight sides located on radii extending from the centre of the lens, and wherein the two regions terminate short of the centre of the lens.~~

12 (original): A method of making a multifocal ophthalmic lens for use by a wearer with a field of view containing one or more critical regions for potential visual discomfort, the method comprising the steps of:

producing a long-distance lens piece having a peripheral edge;  
producing a progressive lens piece having a peripheral edge;  
joining said long-distance lens piece and said progressive lens piece along a portion of said peripheral edges, such that said progressive lens piece is substantially outside said critical regions.

13 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 12, ~~which includes~~ wherein said joining step utilizes at least one of: a tongue and groove joint; and adhesive bonding for joining the separate lens pieces together.

14 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 13, which includes providing a groove extending around the periphery of the lens and an O-ring located in the groove, for holding the lens pieces together

15 (original): A method as claimed in claim 14, which includes providing front and rear transparent films substantially covering said front and rear viewing surfaces of the lens.

16 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 12, which includes using the lens to produce a mold and subsequently molding an integral one-piece lens from the mold.

17 (currently amended): A multifocal ophthalmic lens having a distance optical center, comprising:

a first portion having first focal properties, said first focal properties being substantially constant throughout said first portion and being selected for distance viewing; and

a second portion having second focal properties extending downwardly from a location adjacent the distance optical center and having a focal length that varies progressively downwardly in said second portion; and two regions on either side of said second portion, each of said regions having substantially the same focal properties as the first portion,  
wherein said lens has a front surface that transitions smoothly between said first portion, said second portion and said two regions.

18 (new): A method of making a multifocal ophthalmic lens for use by a wearer with a field of view containing one or more critical regions for potential visual discomfort, the method comprising the steps of:

producing a first lens piece having a first peripheral edge, said lens piece including a long-distance viewing portion having constant focal properties and a progressive portion having a focal length that varies progressively downwardly;

producing a second lens piece having a second peripheral edge and having constant focal properties;

producing a third lens piece having a third peripheral edge and having constant focal properties; and

joining said first second and third lens pieces along a portion of said first second and third peripheral edges, such that said progressive portion is substantially outside said critical regions.

19 (new): A method as claimed in claim 18, which includes using the lens to produce a mold and subsequently molding an integral one-piece lens from the mold.

20. (new) A multifocal ophthalmic lens having a distance optical center, comprising:

a first portion having first focal properties, said first focal properties being substantially constant throughout said first portion; and

a second portion having second focal properties extending downwardly from a location adjacent the distance optical center and having a focal length that varies progressively downwardly in said second portion; and

two regions on either side of said second portion, each of said regions having substantially constant focal properties,

wherein at least one of the regions has an infinite focal length and wherein the first portion has a finite focal length.